

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
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ICA-11 /089 W
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P R 301719Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6200
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4859

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PEPR AO PO US PU
SUBJECT: A PORTUGUESE PERSPECTIVE OF THE EANES/NETO SUMMIT

SUMMARY: THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY VIEWS THE RESULTS
OF THE EANES-NETO SUMMIT AS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN
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EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. THE PORTUGUESE
WILL PUSH HARD IN THE WEEKS AHEAD TO MAINTAIN THE
MOMENTUM BY PROMPT SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENTS IN SUCH AREAS
AS TRADE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN A JUNE 30 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS,

PRESIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LUIS MARTINS MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT THE RECENT EANES/NETO SUMMIT:

-- AN OVERVIEW: FROM THE PORTUGUESE PERSPECTIVE, THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING WERE A MAJOR SUCCESS. THINGS BEGAN ON AN UNCERTAIN NOTE WITH CONFUSION ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS BY THE BISSAUAN HOSTS AND SIGNS OF COOLNESS AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF THE ANGOLAN DELEGATION. THE INITIAL LATE AFTERNOON TETE-A-TETE MEETING BETWEEN EANES AND NETO ON JUNE 24, HOWEVER, BROKE THE ICE. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS THE PRINCIPALS MET WITHOUT EVEN NOTE TAKERS. STAFFERS FROM BOTH DELEGATIONS PACED NERVOUSLY WHILE THE TWO PRESIDENTS REMAINED CLOSETED. THEY EMERGED AND IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THEIR DISCUSSIONS HAD GONE WELL. THE ICE WAS BROKEN. THE FOLLOWING DAY BOTH EANES AND NETO PLAYED A PERSONAL ROLE IN THE MEETINGS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS. THEY INTERVENED AT DECISIVE MOMENTS TO ENSURE THAT POINTS OF CONTENTION WERE OVERCOME. THE RESULTING UMBRELLA AGREEMENT OPENS THE WAY FOR COOPERATION IN A VARIETY OF AREAS IMPORTANT TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

-- NEXT STEPS: TO IMPLEMENT THE GENERAL AGREEMENT SIGNED AT BISSAU, A MEETING OF THE MIXED COMMISSION TO BE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AGREEMENT WILL BE HELD IN EITHER LISBON OR LUANDA DURING THE SECOND HALF OF JULY. PRESIDENT EANES GIVES TOP PRIORITY TO APPOINTING QUALITY PEOPLE TO THE COMMISSION. SOME WILL COME FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT OTHER SECTORS WILL ALSO

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BE TAPPED. THE PORTUGUESE WILL PUSH HARD FOR FOLLOW-ON AGREEMENTS IN TRADE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. TRADE, WHICH IS THE LESS CONTROVERSIAL, COULD BE THE FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT SIGNED. COMMERCE MINISTER BASILIO HORTA IS LIKELY TO TRAVEL TO LUANDA FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AN AGREEMENT SPELLING OUT PROVISIONS FOR THE RETURN OF PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS TO LUANDA WOULD ALSO BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. MANY FACTORIES IN ANGOLA HAVE STOOD IDLE SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF THE PORTUGUESE. NEITHER THE CUBANS NOR THE EAST GERMANS HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO PUT THEM TO WORK.

-- BACKGROUND OF THE SUMMIT: PLANNING FOR THE SUMMIT BEGAN DURING BISSAU PRESIDENT CABRAL'S VISIT TO LISBON IN JANUARY. NETO'S FAVORABLE RESPONSE, HOWEVER, CAME ONLY SHORTLY BEFORE EANES'S SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE US. NETO PROPOSED MAY 20 AS THE MEETING DATE. THE PORTUGUESE, HOWEVER, DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE TALKS AND THOUGHT THAT A MEETING WITH NO CONCRETE RESULTS WOULD BE DAMAGING DOMESTICALLY. EANES, THEREFORE, RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE ANYTIME FROM JUNE 20 ON. THE JUNE 24-25 DATE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED UPON.

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-- NETO'S HEALTH: NETO WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS THROUGHOUT THE
MEETING. HE IS SOFT-SPOKEN, BUT IN BILATERAL SESSIONS IT WAS
CLEAR THAT HE WAS THE DOMINANT FIGURE ON THE ANGOLAN SIDE.
THE PORTUGUESE IMPRESSION FROM THEIR DEALINGS WITH NETO IS
THAT HE IS STILL THE PIVOTAL FACTOR IN ANGOLAN POLITICS.

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--NETO AND THE SOVIETS: THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE EANES/NETO MEETING. RECENT REPORTS FROM THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR IN MOZAMBIQUE STATE THAT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THERE HAVE DISPLAYED UNIFORM COOLNESS TO REPORTS ABOUT THE BISSAU SUMMIT.

2. IN A SEPARATE JUNE 30 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, PRESIDENT CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD HENRIQUE GRANADEIRO, PROVIDED ADDITIONAL FLAVOR ON NETO'S STAY IN BISSAU. NETO'S ARRIVAL IN A SHINY SOVIET PILOTED TUPOLOV AIRCRAFT COMPLETE WITH SOVIET STEWARDESSES CONTRASTED WITH THE MORE AUSTERE PORTUGUESE-MANNED MILITARY C-130 USED BY EANES. NETO WAS ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT THE BISSAU STAY BY CUBAN RATHER THAN ANGOLAN BODYGUARDS.

3. COMMENT: THE PORTUGUESE ARE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT. THEY WILL BE PUSHING HARD IN THE WEEKS AHEAD TO CAPITALIZE ON WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS ARE FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY A WARM MESSAGE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT EANES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SUMMIT. MARTINS SAID THAT EANES HAD RESPONDED IN KIND. OKUN

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